

Econ 3468: Introduction to Law and Economics

Fall 2013

Instructor: Douglas Savitsky, J.D., Ph.D.

Meeting Place and Time: Laurel Hall 307, TR 5:00-6:15

Office Hours: TR 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

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Overview

This course is intended to introduce undergraduate students to the discipline of law and economics. Law and economics is a broad and diverse field, so we will be focusing on a few areas to get a flavor of the discipline. It is assumed that everyone taking the course has had some economics. As such, there will be an emphasis in the beginning on understanding the law.

Requirements, Grading, and Expectations

I expect students to be prepared for class. Being prepared means that you have read and considered the assigned readings. Reading assignments will consist of sections from the textbook as well as cases, articles, and several book chapters. Many of the readings will likely be difficult because the style of writing is different from what you have experienced before and because many will contain legal jargon that may be unfamiliar. Thus, it is important that you allocate sufficient time to read the assignments carefully and critically. Please feel free to ask, via email or at my office hours, if any reading seems insurmountable. While not required, it is recommended that students brief cases, and take notes on all assigned readings.

Grades will be based on 2 exams (45% each) and class interaction (10%). Many of the topics we will cover are contentious, and it is only through student participation that you will come to fully understand them. You are expected to attend class, and you should be prepared to be called on to summarize and/or respond to readings, and to respond to questions from me or comments from your fellow students.

Exams will be either in-class essay exams, or longer take-home essays. In class exams will, inter alia, consist of a fact pattern from which students should evaluate the law and economic issues. Take home exams will be in essence the same, but they will involve more information and require more detailed answers. It is the student's choice which to take, and students may do one of each. All exams are open book and open note, but you must complete all of the work on your own.

Finally, please be respectful of the class and your fellow students. For example, eating is fine, but please do not eat anything noisy or with a strong odor, etc. Computers are fine, but if you want to play games, email, or browse the internet, do so outside the classroom. And please turn off your cell phones.

Required Books

Thomas Miceli, The Economic Approach to Law, 2nd ed.

Assignments

Assignments will be made on a class to class basis, and will depend upon how quickly we cover the material.